

Scoil Cholmáin, Corkbeg, Whitegate, Co. Cork

Roll Number – 119921

Tel: (021) 4661622

Email: office@whitegatens.ie

Website: www.whitegatens.ie

Intimate Care Policy and Guidelines

Introduction and Aim

In Scoil Cholmáin, Whitegate we aim to provide an environment that is safe and caring for all children in the school. This policy has been compiled to safeguard the children and staff in our school. This policy is applicable in all situations where a child's intimate care needs to be attended to. This policy is complemented by other school policies such as the Safeguarding and Child protection policy, First Aid policy, and the Administration of Medication policy.

What is Intimate care?

Intimate Care is 'any activity required to meet the personal needs of the child'. It is the parents responsibility to make staff aware of any intimate care needs their child might have. Intimate care can also be required as a result of an accident or medical reason. Intimate care can consist of:

- Washing
- Dressing/Undressing during First Aid or post soiling
- Supervision of a child involved in intimate care
- Toileting

School Responsibilities

The Principal alongside the Board of Management will ensure that all staff are familiar with the Intimate care policy and the guideline outline for intimate care below. The principal will ensure all parents are aware that it is their responsibility to notify the staff of any intimate care needs their child may have. When a child has a specific intimate care needs a specific care needs plan will be decided between the principal, child's parents and staff. The principal will ensure the parents fill the permission form (Appendix 1). Staff will only undertake the care needs as agreed with the child's parents.

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Guidelines for Good Practice

All children have the right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect during intimate care. These guidelines have been compiled to safeguard the child and the staff involved in intimate care. The guidelines are relevant to every member of staff involved in intimate care. Adhering to these guidelines should safeguard all children and staff.

- Where possible the child should be involved in their intimate care and independence should be encouraged as far as possible.
- Where a child has injured themselves/wet themselves they will be accompanied to the bathroom by two staff members. The child will be given the opportunity to change privately with as little assistance as possible. If assistance is given, the parent/carers will be notified as soon as possible.
- In instances of soiling, the Parent or Carer will be asked to come to the school to attend to any of the intimate needs of the child or to take the child home. The child will be reassured while they wait for their parent/ carer.
- The child will be always treated with dignity and respect during intimate care. Privacy will be given as much as possible (age and ability dependant). We will endeavour to ensure that our intimate care practice is consistent and respects the dignity of each child. A record of the intimate care given will be recorded and parents/carers will be notified.
- Where an intimate care plan is discussed with the parents, only the agreed intimate care practices will be undertaken by staff and where further intimate care is required parents will be contacted to undertake the care.

Reporting Procedures

If any member of staff has any concerns regarding the welfare of any child, they will report their concerns immediately to the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) or Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP)

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in the school. A written record of all concerns will be made, in accordance with the schools' Safeguarding/ Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

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Appendix 1

Whitegate N.S

Intimate care Permission Slip

Please complete and return this sheet to your child's teacher.

It is the policy of Whitegate N.S that all children have the right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect during intimate care. These guidelines have been compiled to safeguard the child and the staff involved in intimate care. The guidelines are relevant to every member of staff involved in intimate care. Adhering to these guidelines should safeguard all children and staff.

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- Where a child has injured themselves/wet themselves they will be accompanied to the bathroom by two staff members. The child will be given the opportunity to change privately with as little assistance as possible. If assistance is given, the parent/carers will be notified as soon as possible.
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- Where an intimate care plan is discussed with the parents, only the agreed intimate care practices will be undertaken by staff and where further intimate care is required parents will be contacted to undertake the care.

I have read the above Intimate Care Policy and Procedures and agree to it's implementation, if required.

Child's Name: _____

Class: _____

Parent's/ Carer's Signature: _____

Date: _____